

My Dear Mother,

Mic^h., Cal. April 10th 1831

With emotions, widely diverse from any that
 ever agitated or calmed my bosom. I sit down a few moments
 to converse with you. After I had folded my last letter I hes-
 itated and more than once half-undecided to commit it to
 the flames rather than to a Mother's bosom. I was sure it
 would pain your heart and nothing but a tremulous hope that
 I was not then an ingrate & sinner and that I might en-
 joy the benefit of your specific prayers induced me at last
 to send it. And now I bless God that I did. It was a dark
 picture indeed that I must confess, my Mother, it was a true
 copy of the original and dark and black and deathlike as it
 may seem it is a delineation of that character who has pursued
 a course like mine. But I have delayed thus long to answer
 your letter that I might write equally plain and at the
 same time tell you a far different story. Yes my Mother
 and now the time has come - my heart is full - I must
 speak and tell you what the Lord has done for my soul.
 Had I trust, this shame me that my past experience will not
 answer for a passport to Heaven - I cannot have I been do-
 ing - I have had a name to live while I have been dead -
 I have professed to take God's word as the rule of my life - while
 day after day it has lain upon my shelf unopened and un-
 touched - I have said I would serve God - while my conduct
 has at the same time given the lie to my declaration - Chris-
 tians have heard me thank God for sending a share of
 grace and now my heart tells me I have not for years re-
 sponded to that theme with the true spirit of prayer -
 I have been in very dark & agitated waters - the signs of the
 rebelling I have known but little about while at the same
 time. As the calm and composure of the Christian I have
 been a stranger - I have seen a terrible risk - but blessed
 be God. I yet live - and now, his grace strengthening me,
 the remainder of my days shall be exclusively devoted to him
 & my Mother to see such a day as this is too much - may I
 lie in the dust and give him all the glory. I think I am well
 in the nothing that he may be all and in all. Now I will
 tell you a few more things that will make your heart
 leap for joy. The Lord has come down to visit his people - the
 pressing flame of the Almighty has been searching out cold and
 heartless professors - he has sent down his spirit like a rushing
 mighty wind upon this place

You will be blessed with a short history of the glorious
revival. It is about four weeks since a few Christians in the
Village set up a morning prayer meeting for the outpouring
of the Spirit of God - I think four commenced the first morn-
ing - their numbers increased and in the course of a few
days - near one hundred could assemble at five o'clock in
the morning to wrestle our souls with God for a blessing.
Soon a few days meeting was appointed and Christians
looked forward to this period with deep and intense
interest - the time arrived but appearances were some-
what unfavorable - the travelling was excessively hard
and the forenoon was very rainy - still a goodly num-
ber assembled and we had a solemn day - an unusual day in
this place and the people assembled in great numbers
seriousness was depicted on every countenance and in
the afternoon as the simple truths of the Gospel were repeated
home in the consciences of sinners the tears of penitence
seemed to gush from many an eye. At the close of the
exercise a proposition was made that all night men who
wished to be remembered at the throne of grace - with few ex-
ceptions - the congregation rose "in mass" it was solemn
as the grave - God was there. On Thursday the theme was
thoroughly to overflaming yet the stillness of death was ob-
served. In the afternoon the sacrament of the Lords supper
was administered and I do verily believe the Lord himself
presided at his table. He seemed to say to each one "What is
thy petition and what is thy request. Behold I am ready
to grant it." In the evening after a peculiarly solemn exercise
a few more men were invited that they might be united to
anxious sinners - the request was made for all men
to come forward and soon men one hundred presented
themselves inquiring "what shall we do to be saved?" I do
long remember that season. How weak did then look an
arm of flesh and how strong the arm of the Almighty.
Meetings were continued with little interruption till
the next morning. We called it a Sabbath week and
it was - business for the most part was suspended and
the stillness of the Sabbath was manifest during the whole
week. It does not seem like a portion of my earthly existence
- earth and its joys were looked so contemptible - heaven
and its glories were looked so altogether desirable.

I visited home on the same day I received your letter, and gained further information from Mother of some facts relating to sister L. & Johnson. My feelings were so much excited that I have since been at Middlebury & received a full & satisfactory account of whole matter from 1 Parents of 1 young lady, whom L. by his management & hypocrisy has deeply injured.

The story is long & there are many circumstances connected with it which I shall pass over - but 1 prominent facts of 1 case I will give you. As early as 1 fall of 1832 L.'s partiality for Miss Bowen was very apparent. He was a boarder in 1 family & during 1 succeeding winter he took charge of 1 children as a family teacher. Miss B. (the one attended out of Mrs. Cooks school) recited her Latin to him.

Their attachment was mutual & appeared to increase till in 1 month of Feb. the subject was proposed to the parents -- There had been a rumor that L. was engaged to Miss B. & it had excited many fears in 1 mind of Mr B. & wife. They had expressed them together with many cautions to their daughter, & she had done 1 some to L. But he had so denied it, that he had hitherto allayed her fears; still the parents were not altogether satisfied, & at the period alluded to above, I think it was that they first made known their fears directly to L. - We gave them to understand there was no in the rumor, that he was not engaged, nor ever had been & was not a little surprised they should doubt his veracity. Still notwithstanding all his solemn assurances they were not fully satisfied, they were on the look out giving many cautions to their daughter, & matters continued about stationary till the middle of May or June when certain facts came to 1 knowledge of 1 parent which made it appear their duty to interfere.

They conversed freely with L. & wished him disengage entirely his attentions to their daughter so long as things stood thus - The daughter became convinced of his treachery & also wished no more of his attentions. - L. was loud in his accusations of innocence. Things had got to a strange pass indeed

since both his honor & veracity were questioned

He petitioned Miss B to indulge him still to
for six months to clear up his misified character
& make all straight again. Poor man! he has fallen
into a stream that he can neither ford nor swim, & every
struggle only hastens his ruin. She soon became per-
fectedly disgusted with him so as to loathe his very appearance
& shiver even at the mention of his name. But he
did not stop here - but preferred his suit again & again
to her parents. There he enlisted all his Rhetoric & Logic
& that he may at all events carry his point - he represented
to them the high moral guilt they will inevitably attach
to their daughter if they reject his solicitations, in as
much as they will justify her in disregarding promises
she has made to him. And what were those promises?

He had by artfully putting questions to her, obtained
answers which he construed in a sense different from
what she intended at the time - as the very wording
of the questions show they were designed to entrap her.

This mean talk of moral obligation I shudder!

They cast him off entirely. - He has lost his in-
fluence in Middlebury as a scholar a christian & a man.

And is this the person who sister Mary and other
benevolent Ladies are helping with their gifts? Let
them select a more deserving object. And does the
man presume to solicit again the heart & hand of
my beloved sister Lucia? Were I a savage I
should shoot him - if a Mahometan I should
curse him but as I am a christian I sincerely
pity him. She will not - she can not love
so much hypocrisy stupidity & corruption.

Copy of a letter from brother Lyden

Jan 24 - 1833 -